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Russian 225: "Until It Was No More" The Cold War  
and the Fall of the USSR in Literature and Film

Community Engaged Learning

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Fall 2018

### Syllabus: "Until It Was No More:" The Cold War and the Fall of the USSR in Literature and Film (Russian 221)

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**RUSS 225: Fall 2018: MWF 1010-1100 ASC126**

**“Until It Was No More:” The Cold War and the Fall of the USSR in Literature and Film**

Instructor: Anna Aydinyan

Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:10 - 11:00 am and 12:10 - 3:00 pm

CEL Community Partner: Noel McHardy (MVHS)

*Until the mid-1980s, it never even occurred to anyone that in our country anything could change. Neither to children nor to adults. There was a complete impression that everything was forever.*

Songwriter Andrei Makarevich

**Course description:**

How was it possible that the last Soviet generation did not foresee the “collapse” of its country, and yet when it happened was not surprised by it? Did the workers of the last two decades before perestroika “trade social security for political compliance?” What role did nationalism and the process of decolonization play in the country’s disintegration? Did the Cold War rivalry precipitate its fall? How successful was someone who came of age during perestroika in embracing market relations? While examining the answers to these questions as provided by anthropologists, political scientists and historians, we will also search for insights from Soviet and Post-Soviet literature and film. The grades will be based on participation in class discussions, the questions posted by students on our online forum before each class, two presentations of scholarly articles, and CEL portfolio.

CEL COMPONENT: This course has a Community Engaged Learning component. We will explore the film *Hipsters* dedicated to the Soviet youth culture during the Cold War in collaboration with the Mount Vernon High School class in World History?

**Grading:**

Participation in class discussions - 25%

Questions posted on the forum - 20%

Presentations - 30% (15% each)

CEL Portfolio - 25%

**Kenyon Students’ CEL Portfolio Will Include:**

1 Essay

2 Critical reflections

1 Discussion plan

1 Presentation slide

Photos documenting the event

### CEL Project: **Imagining Each Other**

1. KC students give a 10 minute group presentation for the MVHS students in order to put the film into its historical context.
2. KC students work in pairs and lead a discussion among a group of 4-5 MVHS students. To start up the discussion they pose 10 questions that they prepare in advance after which they encourage the students from MVHS to come up with their own questions. While leading the discussion they encourage MVHS students to think of the representations of foreigners in American film. Do the villains often speak with a foreign accent? Is this tendency changing in the recent films? Do these representations influence the way the students see other cultures?
3. Homework assignment for both the KC students and the MVHS students: Ask your parents, grandparents, or other relatives, who lived during the Cold War, to tell you how they felt about the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries at that time. Do they think about their Cold War adversaries differently now? What is your own opinion on the subject? What do you think about the current relations between the US and Russia? Summarize your ideas in a short essay.
4. MVHS students email their drafts to the KC student that led the discussion in their group. KC student email them their suggestions on how to improve their essays. This will make KC student to also reassess and improve their own essays.
5. During a follow up meeting the students share and discuss their essays with the entire class.
6. After completing the CEL project Kenyon students will participate in Critical Reflection Activities, according to the **D.E.A.L** Model:

- Describe – Objective description of experience
- Examine – Analyze experience through academic/disciplinary lens
- Articulate Learning – What was learned, how it was learned, why it matters, what it means for my future behavior

#### **Kenyon Critical Reflection Assignments:**

##### **Describe your CEL experience:**

- How did you prepare for your visit to the MVHS and interactions with MVHS students? What materials did you use for your research? What class activities did you do in anticipation of your interactions with the MVHS students?
- Describe your visit to the MVHS. What did you see? What did you do? What did you say? Whom did you meet? What did they do or say?

##### **Examine – Analyze experience through academic /disciplinary lens (academic learning):**

- Which new facts and concepts from the journal articles and book chapters that we read during this course prepared you best for the presentation that you gave to the MVHS students?
- Which of the course materials were you able to use spontaneously during the follow up discussion with the MVHS students?

- What skills acquired in this class were the most useful during the different stages of this project?
- Which areas of preparation was most relevant during your interactions with the MVHS students?
- What specific collaborative activities, group discussion and personal interactions made you aware of your own values, views and possible biases?

**Articulate Learning:**

- How did your interactions change your understanding of the reading material? Did it become deeper; did you gain a new perspective?
- Did your collaborative project give you a better understanding of the ideological confrontation during the Cold War, and the role of cinema in articulating it?
- Why this learning matters? Will it change your future behavior? Did this collaboration result in your personal growth? Did it make you a better citizen of your country and the world?

**Learning goals for Kenyon and Mount Vernon High School students:**

- Analyzing the cinematic representation of the Soviet youth culture in the Cold War era vis-à-vis Western influences, together with the Mount Vernon High School students, Kenyon students will achieve a more nuanced understanding of the ideological opposition between the two systems and its representation in cinema.
- Cinema is a mediated representation of historical events and cultural identities. The students will grasp ideological and artistic mediation discussing the reasons behind different ways the Cold War adversaries were represented in film throughout the twentieth and twenty first centuries.
- The discussion of the film *Hipsters* will lead to a more general discussion of the Cold War anxieties. Both Kenyon students and MVHS students will be encouraged to interview their family members, who remember how film and media presented the confrontation to the public, and how their feelings about their Cold War adversary changes throughout their lives.
- One of the desired outcomes of these reflections is to prepare citizens who are aware of the destructive nature of war, especially one between two nuclear powers, and the importance of resolving political conflicts through professional and popular diplomacy instead of military confrontations.
- Another equally important outcome is the students' development as independent thinkers and critical consumers of cultural production.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Unexcused absences will lower your attendance and participation grade.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Kenyon College is, at the core, an intellectual community of scholars – students and faculty – engaged in the free and open exchange of ideas. Critical to this lively exchange and deep engagement with ideas is the academic integrity of our work, both inside and outside the classroom.

At Kenyon we expect all students, at all times, to submit work that represents these standards of academic integrity. It is the responsibility of each student to learn and practice the proper ways of documenting and acknowledging those whose ideas and words you have drawn upon (see Academic Honesty and Questions of Plagiarism in the Course Catalog). Ignorance and carelessness are not excuses for academic dishonesty. If you are uncertain about the expectations for academic honesty in this class, please ask for clarification.

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION SYLLABI INFORMATION:** Students who anticipate they may need accommodations in this course because of the impact of a learning, physical, or psychological disability are encouraged to meet with me privately early in the semester to discuss their concerns. In addition, students must contact Erin Salva, Director of Student Accessibility and Support Services (740-427-5453 or [salvae@kenyon.edu](mailto:salvae@kenyon.edu)), as soon as possible, to verify their eligibility for reasonable academic accommodations. Early contact will help to avoid unnecessary inconvenience and delays.

## **Week 1**

**Arkady and Boris Strugatsky, *Monday Begins on Saturday***

MONDAY: Timeline of Soviet History

WEDNESDAY: *Monday Begins on Saturday*, pages 1-32

FRIDAY: *Monday Begins on Saturday*, pages 32-61

## **Week 2**

**Arkady and Boris Strugatsky, *Monday Begins on Saturday***

**Film: *I am Twenty Years Old* - view on Kanopy through Kenyon library**

MONDAY: *Monday Begins on Saturday*, pages 61-132

WEDNESDAY: *I am Twenty Years Old*

FRIDAY: *Monday Begins on Saturday*, pages 132-187

## ***Presentations:***

*Ethan Pollock, "From Partiinost' to Nauchnost' and Not Quite Back Again: Revisiting the Lessons of the Lysenko Affair," Slavic Review, Vol. 68, No. 1 (Spring, 2009), pp. 95-115*

The Office of Community Partnerships and the Career Development Office will be hosting an orientation session for all students in a CEL tagged class. At this session we will be discussing what CEL is, methods for entering the community, and professionalism. It will be held on January 27 (Sunday) from 3-4 in Cheever Seminar Room. Please consider adding this event to your syllabus.

### **Week 3**

**Film Screening: *Solaris* - [view on Amazon](#)**

**Victor Pelevin, *Omon Ra***

*MONDAY: Omon Ra, pages 1-44*

*WEDNESDAY: Solaris*

*FRIDAY: Omon Ra, pages 45-100*

#### **Presentations:**

Rita G. Koman, "Man on the Moon: The U.S. Space Program as a Cold War Maneuver," *OAH Magazine of History*, Vol. 8, No. 2, *Rethinking the Cold War* (Winter, 1994), pp. 42-50

Jonathan Coopersmith, "The Dog That Did Not Bark during the Night: The "Normalcy" of Russian, Soviet, and Post-Soviet Science and Technology Studies," *Technology and Culture*, Vol. 47, No. 3, (Jul., 2006), pp. 623-637

Asif A. Siddiqi, "Competing Technologies, National(ist) Narratives, and Universal Claims: Toward a Global History of Space Exploration," *Technology and Culture*, Vol. 51, No. 2 (April 2010), pp. 425-443

### **Week 4**

**Film Screening: *Hipsters***

***Monday Begins on Saturday***

Mark Edele, "Strange Young Men in Stalin's Moscow: The Birth and Life of the Stiliagi, 1945-1953," *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas, Neue Folge*, Bd. 50, H. 1 (2002), pp. 37-61

Sergei I. Zhuk, "Inventing America on the Borders of Socialist Imagination: Movies and Music from the USA and the Origins of American Studies in the USSR," *Region*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (2013), pp. 249-288

### **Week 5**

**Ludmila Ulitskaya, *The Big Green Tent***

MONDAY: NO CLASS

WEDNESDAY: *The Big Green Tent*, pages 3-109

FRIDAY: *The Big Green Tent*, pages 110-155

**Presentations:**

Allen Guttman, "The Cold War and the Olympics," *International Journal*, Vol. 43, No. 4, *Sport in World Politics* (Autumn, 1988), pp. 554-568

John Soares, "The Cold War on Ice," *The Brown Journal of World Affairs*, Vol. 14, No. 2 (SPRING/SUMMER 2008), pp. 77-87

R. Gerald Hughes and Rachel J. Owen, "'The Continuation of Politics by Other Means': Britain, the Two Germanys and the Olympic Games, 1949-1972" *Contemporary European History*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (Nov., 2009), pp. 443-474

**Week 6**

**Film: *Hipsters***

**Ludmila Ulitskaya, *The Big Green Tent***

MONDAY: *Hipsters*

WEDNESDAY: *The Big Green Tent*, pages 155-200

FRIDAY: *The Big Green Tent*, pages 201-234

**Presentations:**

Mark Edele, "Strange Young Men in Stalin's Moscow: The Birth and Life of the Stiliagi, 1945-1953," *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas*, Neue Folge, Bd. 50, H. 1 (2002), pp. 37-61

Sergei I. Zhuk, "Inventing America on the Borders of Socialist Imagination: Movies and Music from the USA and the Origins of American Studies in the USSR," *Region*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (2013), pp. 249-288

Harriet Murav, "Sinyavsky's Trial," *The Slavic and East European Journal*, Vol. 42, No. 3 (Autumn, 1998), pp. 389-393

## **Week 7**

**Film: *Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears* - [view on Amazon](#)**

**Ludmila Ulitskaya, *The Big Green Tent***

MONDAY: *The Big Green Tent*, pages 235-305

WEDNESDAY: *Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears*

FRIDAY: *The Big Green Tent*, pages 306-345

### **Presentations:**

Christine Varga-Harris, "Homemaking and the Aesthetic and Moral Perimeters of the Soviet Home during the Khrushchev Era," *Journal of Social History*, Vol. 41, No. 3 (Spring, 2008), pp. 561-589

Susan E. Reid, "Cold War in the Kitchen: Gender and the De-Stalinization of Consumer Taste in the Soviet Union under Khrushchev," *Slavic Review*, Vol. 61, No. 2 (Summer, 2002), pp. 211-252

Natasha Kolchevska, "Angels in the Home and at Work: Russian Women in the Khrushchev Years," *Women's Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 33, No. 3/4, Gender and Culture in the 1950s (Fall - Winter, 2005), pp. 114-137

Joanne Meyerowitz, "Beyond the Feminine Mystique: A Reassessment of Postwar Mass Culture, 1946- 1958," *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 79, No. 4 (Mar., 1993), pp. 1455-1482

## **Week 8**

**Ludmila Ulitskaya, *The Big Green Tent***

MONDAY: *The Big Green Tent*, pages 345-487

WEDNESDAY: *The Big Green Tent*, pages 488-527

FRIDAY: *The Big Green Tent*, pages 528-576



### **Presentations:**

Mike Grimshaw, "Encountering Religion: Encounter, Religion, and the Cultural Cold War, 1953–1967," *History of Religions*, Vol. 51, No. 1 (August 2011), pp. 31-58

Chiou-Ling Yeh, "A Saga of Democracy": Toy Len Goon, American Mother of the Year, and the Cultural Cold War," *Pacific Historical Review*, Vol. 81, No. 3 (August 2012), pp. 432-461

Linda J. Cook, "Brezhnev's 'Social Contract' and Gorbachev's Reforms," *Soviet Studies*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (1992), pp. 37-56

Alexei Yurchak, "Soviet Hegemony of Form: Everything Was Forever, until It Was No More," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 45, No. 3 (Jul., 2003), pp. 480-510

### **Week 9**

**Vladimir Kozlov, *USSR: Diary of a Perestroika Kid***

MONDAY: *USSR: Diary of a Perestroika Kid*, pages 1-61

WEDNESDAY: *USSR: Diary of a Perestroika Kid*, pages 61-83

FRIDAY: *USSR: Diary of a Perestroika Kid*, pages 83-106

### **Presentations:**

Reagan's address to the National Association of Evangelicals in Orlando, Florida

The Gorbachev Visit: Excerpts from Speech to U.N.

Helene Keyssar, "Space Bridges: The U. S.-Soviet Space Bridge Resource Center," *Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 27, No. 2 (Jun., 1994), pp. 247-253

Alexander Yanov, "Perestroika and Its American Critics," *Slavic Review*, Vol. 47, No. 4 (Winter, 1988), pp. 716-725

D. W. J. McForan, "Glasnost, Democracy, and Perestroika," *International Social Science Review*, Vol. 63, No. 4 (AUTUMN 1988), pp. 165-174

### **Week 10**

**Vladimir Kozlov, *USSR: Diary of a Perestroika Kid***

MONDAY: *USSR: Diary of a Perestroika Kid*, pages 106-165

WEDNESDAY: *USSR: Diary of a Perestroika Kid*, pages 165-186

FRIDAY: *USSR: Diary of a Perestroika Kid*, pages 187-208

### **Presentations:**

Natalia Dinello, "Russian Religious Rejections of Money and Homo Economicus: The Self-Identifications of the "Pioneers of a Money Economy" in Post-Soviet Russia" *Sociology of Religion*, Vol. 59, No. 1 (Spring, 1998), pp. 45-64

Barry Buzan, "Will the 'Global War on Terrorism' Be the New Cold War?" *International Affairs* (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-), Vol. 82, No. 6 (Nov., 2006), pp. 1101-1118

Raj M. Desai and Itzhak Goldberg, "Perestroika Cubana," *The National Interest*, No. 91 (Sep./Oct. 2007), pp. 71-76

Michael F. Hopkins, "Continuing Debate and New Approaches in Cold War History," *The Historical Journal*, Vol. 50, No. 4 (Dec., 2007), pp. 913-934

## **Week 11**

**Film: *From Russia with Love***

**Viktor Suvorov, *Inside the Aquarium***

MONDAY: *Inside the Aquarium*, pages 103-175

WEDNESDAY: *From Russia with Love Inside the Aquarium*, pages 176-207

FRIDAY: *Inside the Aquarium*, pages 208-245

### **Presentations:**

Michael Kackman, "Citizen, Communist, Counterspy: "I Led 3 Lives" and Television's Masculine Agent of History," *Cinema Journal*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (Autumn, 1998), pp. 98-114

Russell H. Bartley, "The Piper Played to Us All: Orchestrating the Cultural Cold War in the USA, Europe, and Latin America," *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, Vol. 14, No. 3 (Spring, 2001), pp. 571-619

Charles William Maynes, "Squandering Triumph: The West Botched the Post-Cold War World," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 78, No. 1 (Jan. - Feb., 1999), pp. 15-22

## **Week 12**

### **Film Screening: *I am Cuba***

#### **Clarence Adams, *An American Dream***

MONDAY: *An American Dream*, pages xi-22

WEDNESDAY: *An American Dream*, pages 23-45

FRIDAY: *An American Dream*, pages 46-72

#### **Presentations:**

Carl E. Pletsch, "The Three Worlds, or the Division of Social Scientific Labor, Circa 1950-1975," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 23, No. 4 (Oct., 1981), pp. 565-590

B. R. Tomlinson, "What Was the Third World?" *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 38, No. 2 (Apr., 2003), pp. 307-321

John David Skrentny, "The Effect of the Cold War on African-American Civil Rights: America and the World Audience, 1945-1968," *Theory and Society*, Vol. 27, No. 2 (Apr., 1998), pp. 237-285

Jodi Melamed, "W. E. B. Du Bois's UnAmerican End," *African American Review*, Vol. 40, No. 3 (Fall, 2006), pp. 533-550

## **Week 13**

#### **Clarence Adams, *An American Dream***

MONDAY: *An American Dream*, pages 73-104

WEDNESDAY: *An American Dream*, pages 105-128

FRIDAY: *An American Dream*, pages 129-145

### **Presentations:**

Vera Tolz, "Orientalism, Nationalism, and Ethnic Diversity in Late Imperial Russia," *The Historical Journal*, Vol. 48, No. 1 (Mar., 2005), pp. 127-150

Presentation by Armaan Maharaj: Mark R. Beissinger, "Nationalism and the Collapse of Soviet Communism," *Contemporary European History*, Vol. 18, No. 3, Revisiting 1989: Causes, Course and Consequences (Aug., 2009), pp. 331-347

### **Week 14**

**Film:** *Prisoner of the Mountains*

**Vladimir Makanin,** "The Captive of the Caucasus"

MONDAY: "The Captive of the Caucasus"

WEDNESDAY: *Prisoner of the Mountains*

FRIDAY: *Final Reflections*



"Coca-Cola: It's the Real Thing", by Alexander Kosolapov (1990).

Accessed from Russian Arts Foundation  
(<http://russianartsfoundation.com/#!collection/item599/>), 1/24/19.